

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for producing metal strip (1) in an installation (2), in which a metal strand, especially a thin slab, is brought to a desired temperature and/or is maintained at a desired temperature in a furnace (3, 3a, 3b) and is subjected to a rolling process in a rolling train (4) downstream of the furnace (3, 3a, 3b) in the direction of conveyance (R) of the metal strand (1), wherein the metal strand (1) is subjected to at least one descaling operation during its residence time in the furnace (3, 3a, 3b), wherein the descaling operation in the furnace (3, 3a, 3b) is carried out in a moving location in the furnace (3, 3a, 3b), and wherein the descaling operation is carried out by a descaling system located in the furnace and connected with moving devices for allowing the system to move in the direction of conveyance.

2. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein a descaling operation is carried out approximately in the middle (6) of a ~~the~~ region (5) of the furnace (3, 3a, 3b).

3. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with Claim 2 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein, in addition to the descaling operation in the region (5) of the furnace (3, 3a, 3b), a descaling operation is carried out upstream of the furnace (3, 3a, 3b) with respect to the direction of conveyance (R) of the metal strand (1).

4. (Previously presented) Installation (2) for producing metal strip (1), which has a furnace (3, 3a, 3b), in which a metal strand, especially a thin slab, can be brought to a desired temperature and/or maintained at a desired temperature, and a rolling train (4) for rolling the metal strand (1) downstream of the furnace (3, 3a, 3b) in the direction of conveyance (R) of the metal strip (1), wherein at least one descaling system (7) is installed in the furnace (3, 3a, 3b), wherein the descaling system (7) in the furnace (3, 3a, 3b) is connected with moving devices (9), with which it can be moved in the direction of conveyance (R) of the metal strand (1).

5. (Currently Amended) Installation in accordance with Claim 4, wherein the descaling system (7) is installed more or less in the middle (6) of a ~~the~~ region (5) of the furnace (3, 3a, 3b).

6. (Previously presented) Installation in accordance with Claim 4, wherein the furnace (3) is continuous, and the descaling system (7) is installed in the interior of the furnace.

7. (Currently Amended) Installation in accordance with Claim 5 ~~[[4]]~~, wherein, in addition to the descaling system (7) in the region (5) of the furnace (3, 3a, 3b), a descaling system (8) is installed upstream of the furnace (3, 3a, 3b) with respect to the direction of conveyance (R) of the metal strand (1).

8. (Currently Amended) Installation in accordance with Claim 4, wherein the at least one ~~or more~~ descaling system ~~systems~~ (7, 8) is ~~are~~ of the type with static nozzles.

9. (Currently Amended) Installation in accordance with Claim 4, wherein the at least one ~~or more~~ descaling system ~~systems~~ (7, 8) is ~~are~~ of the type with rotating nozzles.